

Claims:

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

5 1. A method of creating and searching a database of multi-lingual documents, the method comprising the steps of:

10 using a keyword dictionary to extract keywords;

 translating the keywords into the languages supported by a bi-directional synonym listing;

15 creating a keyword listing in each supported language;

 using the keywords in each supported language to create more than one inverted index of the documents including the keywords, one inverted index being in a first language and another inverted index being in a second language;

20 retrieving documents in a search mode comprising the steps of translating the search terms using the same bi-directional synonym listing, generating a translated query, submitting parallel inquiries to first and second different inverted indices, receiving first and second results of the search using the first and second inverted indices and selecting one of the first and second results for use.

25 2. A method including the steps of Claim 1 wherein the step of using the keywords to create an inverted index includes the step of using the Unicode system to manage multiple languages.

30 3. A method of searching a database including the steps of Claim 1 wherein the step of generating an inquiry includes identifying the language in which it is presented.

4. A method of searching a database including documents written in more than one language, the steps of the method comprising:

identifying a search in one language;

converting the search into another language;

5 searching the database in both the one language and the another language and generating a first list of results associated with the one language and a second list of results from the another language; and

providing the first and second lists of search results as output.

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5. The method of Claim 4 wherein the step of converting the search into another language includes the step of using a bi-directional keyword dictionary.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the method further includes the step of selecting one of the first list of results and the second list of results as the output of the search.

7. The method of Claim 4 wherein the step of converting a search term into another language includes the step of transposing it to the Unicode system.

8. A system for searching a database based on an input search, the system comprising:
a synonym list for keywords which includes corresponding words in at least a first and a
second language;

an inverted index for the database including keywords and synonyms for keywords based
5 on the synonym list;

an indicator of the language associated with the input search along with a selection of
whether documents are desired in the natural language or in all languages;

a search engine responsive to the natural language indication and the selection of
documents, said search engine using the inverted index to determine a first set of results which
10 include the documents which correspond to the input search in the input language and a second
set of results which correspond to the documents which include documents which are not in the
input language.

9. A system of the type described in Claim 8 wherein the synonym list is a two-way
15 synonym list which is usable in converting a search time from a first language to a second
language and from a second language to a first language.

10. A searching system of the type described in Claim 8 wherein the converting of search
terms uses the Unicode system for managing multiple languages.

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15. A database searching program stored on a medium comprising:

a first module which includes a bi-directional synonym listing of terms;

a second module which receives text and selects one or more keywords;

a third module which receives the one or more keywords and translates the one or more

5 keywords into another language;

a fourth module which searches a database using the keywords in one language and the translations of keywords using the translations of the third module, said fourth module creating a first set of results using a first language and a second set of results which includes documents in a language other than the first language; and

10 a fifth module which receives an indication from the user as to whether results in the first language or results including documents in a second language are desired.

16. A program including the elements of Claim 15 wherein the third module of the program which translates words into another language uses the Unicode system for managing
15 multiple languages.

17. A program including the elements of Claim 15 where the program further includes a module for identifying the language of the user and uses the language of the user in the third module which translates the keywords.

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